PATENT Atty. Docket No.: C99-018

USSN: 09/370,706

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 - 4 as follows:

1.\ (Twice Amended) An electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, the improvement comprising:

a single method object, adapted to be instantiated in at least one of the spreadsheet cells, and adapted to provide internal data storage and a single member function, the single member function being adapted to access internal data stored in the single method object and return a single value;

a data display buffer, the data contents of which are displayed under a partially transparent spreadsheet grid; and

means for selectively displaying the internal data of the single method object in the data display buffer by selecting a spreadsheet cell in which the single method object is instantiated.

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2. (Twice Amended) A method for selectively displaying large data sets in an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, the method comprising:

instantiating a single method object in each of a plurality of the cells of the spreadsheet, each single method object being adapted to provide internal storage for storing a large data set, and a single member function adapted to access the large data set and return a single value;

displaying the large data/set of the single method object corresponding to a selected cell of the spreadsheet in which the single method object is instantiated; and

displaying in superimposed relationship with the large data set a partially transparent spreadsheet including the selected cell.

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3. (Amended) A user-interface method for selectively displaying machine vision images stored in an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, the method comprising:

instantiating a single method object in each of a plurality of the cells of the spreadsheet, each single method object being adapted to provide internal storage for storing a machine vision image, and a single member function adapted to access the single method object and return a single value;

selecting a cell from the plurality of cells;

displaying the machine vision image stored in the single method object corresponding to the selected cell; and

displaying in superimposed relationship with the machine vision image a partially transparent electronic spreadsheet including the selected cell.

4. (Amended) The user-interface method of claim 3, wherein the partially transparent electronic spreadsheet is adjustably transparent.